

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF PARAGUAY

IPF: (1987-91) \$5 185 000

(PAR/91/008) - Municipal Development

Date of approval by the AC: ^{1/}	11 March 1992
Expected duration:	Three years
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Municipal Government of Asuncion
Proposed UNDP contribution:	\$ 101 300 Source of funds: IPF
Government cost sharing:	\$ 970 900
Total UNDP budget:	\$1 072 200

Project background

In its transition to democracy Paraguay has firmly committed itself to the objective of modernizing the state and its public administration. Within this objective the priorities consist of: (i) encouraging processes that simplify the systems and procedures that the state employs to provide public services, (ii) developing technical and administrative capacities of structures that work at a decentralized level; and (iii) assuaging those sectors of the population that may still be averse to democratic forces of change. Clearly, within this framework the role and structure of the municipality gains increasing significance and with it, there emerges a corresponding need to be modernized and rejuvenated operationally.

In the past the municipalities had been systematically deprived of their autonomy and resources such that, in the end, they were acting more as a government employment agent with the Mayor being appointed by the President and ruling principally by decree. Asuncion, being the largest municipality, the only one with autonomous financing and a freely elected Mayor, was the first municipality chosen for administrative reform and technical upgrading. The services of the municipality (inter alia garbage collection, paving of the roads, sewage and sanitation, traffic control) cater to a resident population of 600,000 and a transitory working population of an estimated 900,000. This constitutes approximately 25 percent of the population of the country.

Immediately after the municipal elections the new authorities of Asuncion acted rapidly to secure and stabilize their financial base. A new Municipal Tax Law was submitted to Congress and county taxes were increased. In addition, and in line with the emphasis on participative democracy, a liaison office for citizens was created and a new work plan for municipal services was established. However, it became clear that much more was required

^{1/} This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

to effectively undertake and complete the process of administrative reform and to cope with community demands for efficient municipal services. It was in this context that the Mayor of Asuncion, via the Ministry of Planning, requested UNDP technical assistance in the form of this project.

Description of project

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) restructure the municipal administration, simplify the administrative procedures and reorganize the structure to allow for increased technical and operational efficiency by including a detailed assessment of the current situation, formulation of new proposals to meet the current needs and overcome the existing obstacles, and development of corresponding structures and administrative procedures to efficiently provide the requisite municipal services; (b) revamp the human resources policy and develop new mechanisms for the selection, recruitment, training, promotion and management of the municipality personnel by elaborating human resource policies, job descriptions and work plans inclusive of the accompanying legislative and administrative framework required for their implementation; (c) establish a system that will train and upgrade the technical capacity of the municipality in the areas of infrastructure, traffic/transit, environmental protection, urban development and social affairs by entailing technical training of municipality staff including some training of trainers, preparation of a general urban development plan, development of an updated cadastre, a municipal plan for sanitation and environmental protection and a plan for urban transport; and (d) prepare a social action programme to target the needs of the less privileged members of society, women, the elderly, the handicapped and the youth. A Human rights center is also contemplated in this context.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 79 man-months of international and national consultants including the CTA, in public administration, human resources, planning, urban development and environmental protection, transport, labor psychology, cadastre, and social services; a subcontract in municipal development; short-term training in other countries; equipment primarily for data processing; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

	\$
Personnel	917 800
Subcontract	15 000
Training	71 000
Equipment	33 000
Miscellaneous	35 400
Total	<u>1 072 200</u>

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